What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for use in an encoder to ensure integrity of a hypothetical decoder buffer of a video buffer verifier comprising:

an encoder buffer including a bit content;

a transmission controller supplied with a representation of a prescribed number of bits for controllably inhibiting transmission of bits from said encoder buffer; and

a calculator for generating said representation of said prescribed number of bits in accordance with a prescribed relationship dependent on said encoder buffer bit content, and an end of picture indication.

2. The apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said transmission controller in response to said representation of said prescribed number of bits controllably inhibits transmission of bits from said encoder buffer upon said number of bits being read out from said encoder buffer.

3. The apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein said calculator includes a detector for determining whether said picture has ended substantially on time.

4. The apparatus as defined in claim 3 wherein said prescribed number of bits is said encoder buffer bit content when said detector indicates that said picture ends substantially on time.

5. The apparatus as defined in claim 3 wherein said calculator is supplied with a first indication of said encoder buffer bit content when said picture actually ended and a second indication of said encoder buffer bit content when said picture should have ended.

6. The apparatus as defined in claim 5 wherein said prescribed number of bits is determined to be, in response to said first indication and said second indication, a number of bits in said encoder buffer bit content when said picture should have ended less any new bits written into said encoder buffer during an interval between when said picture actually ended to when said picture should have ended, when said detector has determined that said picture has ended early relative to an expected time for said picture to end.

7. The apparatus as defined in claim 6 wherein said encoder buffer includes a write pointer having a position representative of the number of bits written into said encoder buffer, said write pointer position at the time said picture actually ended being

said first indication and said write pointer position at the time said picture is expected to end being said second indication.

8. The apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein said new bits written into said encoder buffer is equal to said second indication less said first indication.

9. The apparatus as defined in claim 3 wherein said transmission controller is essentially disabled from inhibiting transmission of bits from said encoder buffer during an interval from a time when said picture should have ended to a time when said picture actually ended, when said detector determines that said picture will end late.

10. The apparatus as defined in claim 9 wherein said prescribed number of bits is a number of bits in said encoder buffer bit content when said picture actually ended, when said detector has determined that said picture has ended late.

11. A method for use in an encoder to ensure integrity of a hypothetical decoder buffer of a video buffer verifier comprising the steps of:

storing bits in an encoder buffer;

controllably inhibiting transmission of bits from said encoder buffer in response to a representation of a prescribed number of bits; and

generating said representation of said prescribed number of bits in accordance with a prescribed relationship dependent on a number of bits stored in said encoder buffer, and an end of picture indication.

12. The method as defined in claim 11 wherein said step of controllably inhibiting, in response to said representation of said prescribed number of bits, controllably inhibits transmission of bits from said encoder buffer upon said number of bits being read out from said encoder buffer.

13. The method as defined in claim 12 further including a step of determining whether said picture has ended substantially on time.

14. The method as defined in claim 13 wherein said prescribed number of bits is said number of bits stored in said encoder buffer when said step of determining indicates that said picture ends substantially on time.

15. The method as defined in claim 13 wherein said step of generating utilizes a first indication of said number of bits stored in said encoder buffer when said picture

actually ended and a second indication of said number of bits stored in said encoder buffer when said picture should have ended.

16. The method as defined in claim 15 wherein said step of generating includes a step of utilizing said first indication and said second indication to generate said representation of said prescribed number of bits as being a number of bits stored in said encoder buffer when said picture should have ended less any new bits written into said encoder buffer during an interval between when said picture actually ended to when said picture should have ended, when said detector has determined that said picture has ended early relative to an expected time for said picture to end.

17. The method as defined in claim 16 wherein said encoder buffer includes a write pointer having a position representative of the number of bits written into said encoder buffer, said write pointer position at the time said picture actually ended being said first indication and said write pointer position at the time said picture is expected to end being said second indication.

18. The method as defined in claim 17 wherein said new bits written into said encoder buffer is equal to said second indication less said first indication.

19. The method as defined in claim 13 wherein said step of controllably inhibiting transmission is essentially disabled from inhibiting transmission of bits from said encoder buffer during an interval from a time when said picture should have ended to a time when said picture actually ended, when said step of determining determines that said picture will end late.

20. The method as defined in claim 19 wherein said prescribed number of bits is a number of bits in said encoder buffer bit content when said picture actually ended, when said detector has determined that said picture has ended late.